

The recent opening in March 2020 of new funds of the Vatican Archives relating to Pius XII's papacy has undoubtedly reawakened the interest of historians throughout the world, as well as the attention of the general public. However, in the context of a historiography of Pius XII that has been polarised for decades around a few major themes, what can really make a difference is a possible integrated interpretation of the pontificate, capable of tracing the general criteria on which Pius XII's policies were based and thus explaining their implications in the various choices of the pontificate. The challenge of the CATHECUMENISM conference is to have identified one of these criteria and thus to be able to study its evolution and to demonstrate its impact on the various aspects of Pius XII's pontificate. This criterion is the competition of the Catholic Church with the contemporary reunification movement of the other Christian denominations.

The conference aims to bring together the most recent studies on the experience of Catholic ecumenism in the different European countries in the 1950s, in the light of the new documentary acquisitions made possible by the opening of the Vatican Archives and the increasing availability of the private archives of various protagonists of that period. During the conference, the parallel study of experiences at the same historical juncture in different national contexts will make it possible to identify mutual influences, possible emulations, collaborations or points of contact also at a transnational level. Moreover, the confrontation of scholars on such a large scale will also make it possible to analyse the action-reaction dynamic and the strategy adopted both by these groups in order to continue their activities and avoid Roman censure, and by the Holy See with regard to these ecumenical experiences, which were increasingly appearing inside and outside the Catholic Church, and towards which it was led to adopt a moderately tolerant attitude, deluding itself that it could "control their growth".

Technical information

Conference organiser

Dr. **Saretta Marotta**

University Ca' Foscari Venice saretta.marotta@unive.it

Conference venue

Erbacher Hof
Greibenstraße, 24-26
55116 Mainz

Information for speakers

All travel and accommodation costs for the speakers will be covered by funding from the Fritz Thyssen Stiftung. Please submit the registration form



Registration for external participants

To register for the conference, please fill out the registration form or send an email to: saretta.marotta@unive.it



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Università
Ca' Foscari
Venezia

Dipartimento di Studi Umanistici



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

CATHECUMENISM: Catholic Ecumenism in the Church of Pius XII and in the Post-War Europe

2-4 October 2023
Mainz, Erbacher Hof

With the financial support of



Monday, 2 October 2023

arrivals

12.00 Lunch

14.30 **Saretta Marotta** (Ca' Foscari University, Venice)

Opening and welcoming

SESSION A: Germany

Chair: **Claus Arnold** (Johannes-Gutenberg-Universität, Mainz)

15.00 **Joachim Bürkle** (Julius-Maximilians-Universität, Würzburg), *The development of the Una Sancta Movement in Germany after WW2*

15.45 **Simon Strobl** (Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, München), *The Controversy over the Una Sancta in the postwar years. Contributions of the Benedictines in Niederaltaich*

16.30 Coffee break

17.00 **Leonhard Hell** (Johannes-Gutenberg-Universität, Mainz), *"The desire for real unity". The different ways to the one goal in the view of Albert Stohr, Bishop of Mainz*

18.00 Discussion

18.30 Dinner followed by the opportunity for a relaxed exchange in the evening

Tuesday, 3 October 2023

SESSION B: France

Chair: **Leonhard Hell** (Johannes-Gutenberg-Universität, Mainz)

9.00 **Étienne Fouilloux** (Université Lumière, Lyon), *Paul Couturier, Pierre Michalon and the Ecumenical Group of Lyon*

9.45 **Hyacinte Destivelle*** (Pontifical University Angelicum, Rome), *The Istina study centre in the catholic-orthodox dialogue during the pontificate of Pius XII*

* to be confirmed

10.30 Coffee break

SESSION C: Belgium

Chair: **Saretta Marotta** (Ca' Foscari University, Venice)

11.00 **Peter De Mey** (Katholieke Universiteit, Leuven), *The evolution of Gustave Thils as an ecclesialogist and ecumenist under Pius XII'*

11.45 **Simon Beentjes** (Katholieke Universiteit, Leuven), *Lialine, Rousseau and the activities of the Benedictines of Chevetogne*

12.30 Lunch

SESSION D: Switzerland

Chair: **Franz Xaver Bischof** (Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, München)

14.30 **Dominik Heringer** (Universität zu Köln), *The Ecumenical Activity of Otto Karrer in Chur*

15.15 **Lorenzo Planzi** (Université de Fribourg), *Catholic Ecumenism in Geneva: Mgr Charrière and Edmond Chavaz*

16.00 Coffee Break

SESSION E: England/Netherlands

Chair: **Peter De Mey** (Ku Leuven)

16.30 **Mark Chapman** (University of Oxford), *Anglicans, Catholics and Ecumenism in Post-War Britain*

17.15 **Karim Schelkens** (University of Tilburg), *The Sint Willibrord Vereniging*

18.00 Discussion

18.30 Dinner

Wednesday, 4 October 2023

SESSION F: Holy See

Chair: **Étienne Fouilloux** (Université Lumière, Lyon)

9.00 **Michael Quisinsky** (Katholische Hochschule, Freiburg), *Ecumenism between Luther and the Magisterium*

9.45 **Benjamin Dahlke** (Katholische Universität), *The dialogue between Karl Barth and Hans Urs von Balthasar at the time of Humani generis*

10.30 Coffee break

11.00 **Saretta Marotta** (Ca' Foscari University, Venice), *The Holy See of Pius XII facing the Ecumenical Movement*

11.45 Final discussion and conclusion

12.30 Lunch

departures